

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Gunnison and Saguache Counties

FROM: Board of Directors
Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District

DATE: January 13, 2015

COPY:

City of Gunnison

Town of Crested Butte

Town of Mt. Crested Butte

Town of Pitkin

State of Colorado, Division of Local Government, Dept. of Local Affairs

Colorado State Auditor

File Copy: Gunnison County Clerk & Recorder

File Copy: Saguache County Clerk & Recorder

Re: Annual Report - January 2015

In accordance with Resolution No. 07-15, passed by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners on March 20, 2007, please find attached the annual report for the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District (GCMRD), pursuant to C.R.S. 32-1-207(3)(c). The report includes but is not limited to information on the progress of the GCMRD in the implementation of the service plan and shall be filed with the Board of County Commissioners, any municipality in which the special district is wholly or partially located, the State of Colorado, Dept. of Local Affairs and the Colorado State Auditor. The report shall be deposited with the County Clerk and Recorders of Gunnison and Saguache Counties and shall be made available to any interested party pursuant to C.R.S. 32-1-204(I).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web: www.gcmetrec.com

Operations: Bill Cote, Operations Manager 970.641.9148

710 S 9th Street, Gunnison

Service Calls – Television Translator System

Email: tech@gcmetrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

		<u>Term</u>
Paul Wayne Foreman, Gunnison	President	5/2016
Clyde K. Hicks, Sargents		5/2016
Mark Hildebrand, Pitkin		5/2016
Rogene McKiernan, Gunnison	Treasurer	5/2018
Harv Rees, Gunnison		5/2018

2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular meetings are held the third Monday of each month beginning at 6:00 P.M. Meetings are held at 710 S. 9th Street, Gunnison. The meeting schedule is posted at the County Clerk's office, the Town of Crested Butte and at the District's facility at 710 S 9th Street and on the District's web site.

ELECTIONS

The next regularly scheduled election of the District is May 3, 2016, at which time three 4-year terms will be decided.

FORMATION

The Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District is a Special District of the State of Colorado that was formed December 21, 1978 under the provisions of Part 8 of Article 1 of Title 32 C. R. S. 1973. The District is support by a mil levy on real and personal property and by Conservation Trust Fund moneys allocated within District boundaries located within Gunnison and Saguache Counties. The mill levy certified for the 2015 budget year, subsequent to a temporary tax credit, is .598 mils.

In 2001 two sub-districts were formed within the District: one encompassing the Crested Butte Fire Protection District (Crested Butte Subdistrict) and the other comprised of the remainder of the District (Gunnison Area Subdistrict). The purpose of the subdistricts is to allow for ballot proposals within a geographical area for recreation, arts and cultural facilities and programs.

THE MISSION

The mission of the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District is to provide low power television signals in a proficient manner and to collaborate with other local governments and not-for-profit organizations to provide services which meet the public need in the specific areas of recreation, arts and cultural services.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERVICE PLAN

REVENUE SHARING

Fifty percent of all Conservation Trust Funds received by the District are shared with other local governments through a revenue sharing agreement. Funds are distributed in proportion to respective populations as per Conservation Trust Fund guidelines. Conservation Trust Funds are utilized for parks, recreation and open space. A total of \$476,103 has been disbursed to qualifying local governments since the revenue sharing agreement was instituted in 2001. Total revenue sharing for the period 2001 -2014 is as follows:

Qualifying Entity	TOTALS
City of Gunnison	\$185,440
Town of Crested Butte	\$52,578
Gunnison County	\$207,794
Town of Mt. Crested Butte	\$26,137
Town of Pitkin	\$3,748
Saguache County (2001 – 2003 only)	\$406
Total	\$476,103

Additionally, Conservation Trust Funds have been awarded to other local governments for significant capital projects within the District including the City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation (\$219,000), Crested Butte Parks & Recreation (\$46,500) and the Gunnison County Trails Commission (\$10,000).

Revenue sharing and grant awards of \$1.36 million have benefited every sector of the local communities positively impacting recreation, parks, trails, theatre, music, education, culture, athletics and historical preservation throughout the District.

Other organizations providing park and recreation services that have benefited from GCMRD funding include the Gunnison Whitewater Park, Gunnison Community School, Crested Butte Community School, Adaptive Sports, Shade For Blades, Colorado Marbles, Crested Butte Ski and Snowboard Club, Crested Butte South Property Owners Association, Gunnison Country Partners, Six Points Evaluation & Training, Gunnison High School, Gunnison Nordic Club, Hospice of Gunnison Valley, Gunnison Valley Ice, the WSC Athletic Foundation, Titan Booster Club and the Gunnison County Fairgrounds.

Support and contributions for arts and culture have been provided to the Gunnison Valley Observatory, Boomers and Beyond, Center for the Arts, Gunnison Arts Center, Crested Butte Arts Festival, Crested Butte Mountain Theatre, Crested Butte Heritage Museum, Gunnison Pioneer Museum, Crested Butte Music Festival, Crested Butte Film Festival, Crested Butte Arts & Recreation Alliance (CBAR), Gunnison County Public Library, Gunnison Valley Poetry Alliance, Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, the Gunnison Farmer’s Market, Community Assets

Coalition and Artists of the West Elks.

TELEVISION TRANSLATOR SYSTEM

The television translator system, encompassing 13 translator sites strategically located throughout the District, broadcasts exceptional quality over-the-air digital television signals. Constituents can easily receive signals utilizing an outdoor antenna. Good quality, affordable, antennas are available locally. Information on “How To Receive Over-the-air Television Signals”, including a video produced in 2014, is available on-line, on-air and by contacting the District.

The number of constituents utilizing the District’s over-the-air television signals continues to escalate following a trend set when the translator system was upgraded to digital signals. More recently a trend known as “cord cutting” has viewers nationwide returning to the use of over-the-air television signals, creating continual growth in the number of viewers utilizing the signals provided by the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District.

Currently 22 channels are being broadcast from the W Mountain site, which serves Gunnison, Almont, Crested Butte South, Crested Butte, Parlin, the Tomichi Valley and West of Gunnison. Signals are also provided to Sargents, Pitkin, Ohio City, Gateview, Powderhorn and Sapinero. Please visit the District’s web site for a complete listing of available channels and areas served by the translator system.

The District has expanded and continues to expand TV service to its constituents. Viewers enjoy HD-quality pictures as well as an expanded palette of channels including Denver and Grand Junction affiliate stations, movies, public television, children’s programming, Spanish-speaking stations, recreation, news, science and lifestyle programming.

The District broadcasts a real-time TV channel that provides a TV guide for the convenience of viewers. Local public radio station KBUT also is broadcast on this channel, increasing coverage for KBUT above and beyond its new KGNI station located at the District’s W Mountain communication site.

Locally originated Crested Butte TV is broadcast through the translator system. CBTv provides local weather forecasts, avalanche and backcountry conditions and emergency broadcast services as well as a wide range of recreation programming including Outside Television; America’s Active Lifestyle Leader and Mountain Film, produced in Telluride.

Additionally, the District broadcasts Gunnison Valley Television, another locally originated station, which provides community events, viewer photos and documentary programming while offering affordable advertising opportunities for local businesses.

Facility and tower space at the GCMRD W Mountain communication site is provided to KBUT public radio and Colorado Public Radio. In 2013 KBUT upgraded to a full-power FM station (KGNI), increasing their broadcast power from 40 watts to 6500 watts at the GCMRD W Mountain communication site. Colorado Public Radio also upgraded services at the GCMRD W Mountain communication site, expanding and improving coverage for its CPR news station. Facility and tower space is also provided to KBUT public radio at the District’s Jack’s Cabin

and Sunlight Ridge communication sites.

DISTRICT FACILITY

In 2014 the District acquired a 32-year old commercial building that serves as District offices, space for public meetings, and snowcat and vehicle storage. Construction of an engineering studio at the facility will be completed in 2015. The District's satellite downlinks will be moved from W Mountain to the District's in-town facility. The digital television signals delivered through the translator system will originate from this studio. Originating television signals from this in-town location, rather than on W Mountain, will result in significant cost savings to be put toward system expansion and other uses, and improved reliability, while reducing W Mountain access needs and possible impacts to the W Mountain archaeological site.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is pleased to continue delivering improved and expanded TV services to its constituents and tourists as the directors hope to resume limited recreation, arts, and cultural funding in the future, in accordance with the mission of the District. Following the unsuccessful "de-brucing" November ballot question,

The District remains under the constraints of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), being the only local government still constrained under TABOR. The mil levy certified for the 2015 budget year represents a TABOR-imposed 31.5% reduction in property tax collections, reflected as a temporary tax credit to constituents. The annual cost to constituents for District services, per \$100,000 of residential property valuation, is \$4.76. Constituents who utilize the District's services, most notably the digital over-the-air television signals, receive a substantial economic benefit: antenna-accessible TV service, an amenity normally found only in large metropolitan areas. This amenity together with the District's commitment to improving arts, recreation, and cultural opportunities for locals and tourists, enhances the economic development of the Gunnison Country.

Electronic filings - DLG, Office of State Auditor, City Gunn, Towns of CB, Mt CB, Pitkin. Hard copies filed with Gunn County BOCC, Sag. County BOCC, Gunn. County Clerk, Sag. County Clerk.